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Agenda item 89

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Argentina, Armenia, Belarus, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Eritrea, Estonia, Georgia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Ukraine and the United States of America: draft resolution

Support for the Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) Programme

The General Assembly,

Convinced that the continuing deterioration of the global environment at all levels, due to the impact of constantly increasing human activity, remains a serious concern requiring further attention, including enhanced awareness and intensified action,

Recalling its resolution 47/190 of 22 December 1992, in which it endorsed the results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including Agenda 21, 1/

Noting, in particular, chapter 25 of Agenda 21 entitled "Children and youth in sustainable development", chapter 36 entitled "Promoting education, public awareness and training", and chapter 40 entitled "Information for decision-making", which call for greater efforts to involve youth, promote public awareness and enhance the collection and exchange of environmental data in support of the pursuit of sustainable development,

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1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum, resolution 1, annex II.

Noting the recent entry into force of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 2/ and the Convention on Biological Diversity, 3/ the impending entry into force of the Convention on the Law of the Sea, 4/ and the recent successful conclusion of negotiations on the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, 5/ which require for their effective implementation much greater and more effective collection and exchange of relevant environmental data,

Recalling also its resolution 48/192 of 21 December 1993 on strengthening international cooperation in the monitoring of global environmental problems,

Convinced of the need to inspire the youth of the world with enthusiasm for the preservation and protection of the global environment, and to provide encouragement and support for their participation in that effort,

1. Welcomes the Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) Programme initiated by the Government of the United States of America on 22 April 1994, which aims to enhance the collective awareness of individuals throughout the world concerning the environment, increase scientific understanding of the Earth, and help all students reach the highest standards in science and mathematics education;

2. Welcomes also the willingness expressed by many Governments to participate with the Government of the United States in shaping and carrying out the GLOBE initiative;

3. Encourages Governments, organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to take part, as appropriate, in the development and implementation of the GLOBE initiative, with full regard for sovereign national rights and interests and within the respective mandates of the organs, organizations and programmes concerned;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that appropriate account is taken of the GLOBE initiative in the efforts of the United Nations system to support the implementation of Agenda 21, particularly in the coordinating functions of the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development of the Administrative Committee on Coordination;

2/ A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I.

3/ See United Nations Environment Programme, Convention on Biological Diversity (Environmental Law and Institutions Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

4/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.V.5.

5/ A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II.

5. Requests also that the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, in particular the Commission on Sustainable Development, take full account of the GLOBE initiative in reviewing and promoting the implementation of Agenda 21;

6. Requests further that the Secretary-General consider identifying an appropriate point of contact within the United Nations Secretariat to facilitate United Nations support for the GLOBE initiative;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to report, as appropriate, to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session on the efforts of the United Nations system to support the GLOBE initiative.